



03500.015453.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

MASAHIKO KUBOTA, et al.)

Application No.: 09/878,946)

Filed: June 13, 2001)

For: SOLID SEMICONDUCTOR)

ELEMENT, INK TANK,)

INK JET RECORDING)

APPARATUS PROVIDED)

WITH INK TANK, LIQUID)

INFORMATION ACQUIRING)

METHOD AND LIQUID)

PHYSICAL PROPERTY CHANGE :)

DISCRIMINATING METHOD)

Examiner: L. Liang

Group Art Unit: 2853

January 13, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

Europe 412,459
Europe 478,019
France 2,744,391
Japan 56-80473
Japan 60-34863
Japan 11-51861
Japan 2000-21838
Japan 2000-146892
PCT/WO 98/04414

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N. Kong, "Floating Ink-Density Sensor", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 21, No. 7, December 1978

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated November 27, 2002, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

This application has received a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of any of the five Japanese references, nor the French reference, but an English language abstract for each has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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